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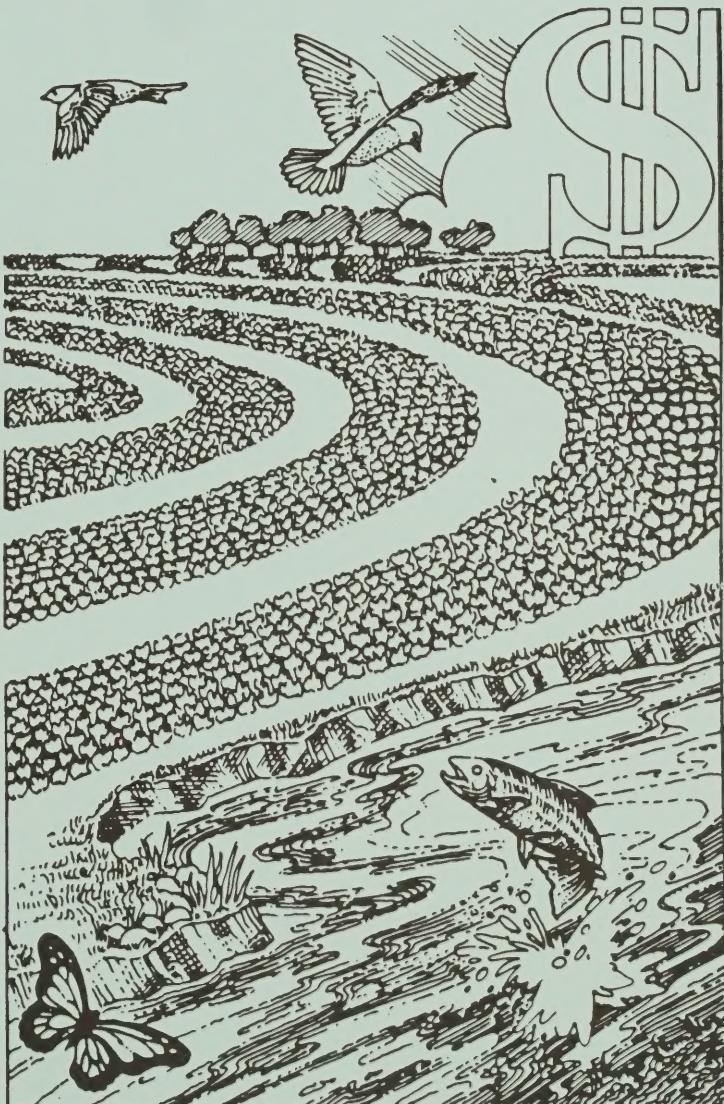
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# NEW MEXICO

**Western Region Projects  
Supported by  
Sustainable Agriculture Research  
and  
Education Program**



Administered by

Cooperative State Research Service, USDA  
in cooperation with Extension Service, USDA  
Pursuant to Title XVI, Research, Subtitle B of the  
Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
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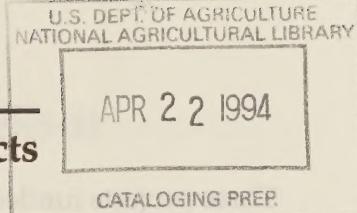
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from project reports

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## Overview of New Mexico Projects

Congress has provided strong and growing support for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grants program, also known as LISA (Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture). Administered by Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), with the Cooperative Extension Service as a full partner, this program is forging partnerships between farmers, scientists, educators, agribusiness, non-profit organizations, and government -- a partnership that is beginning to promote better stewardship of the Nation's natural resource base. The program has supported 112 new projects since its inception in 1988; perhaps two dozen more will be funded by June.

Projects funded are typically carried out by teams of farmers, university research and education staff, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private enterprise. Top priority is given to whole-farm integrated systems projects, usually including on-farm research and demonstrations. These projects are providing scientific documentation of low-input sustainable farming practices and systems, in comparison with conventional or chemical-intensive agriculture.

Farmer involvement is one of the strengths of this program -- 1,860 farmers nationwide have participated in projects during the first three years. When farmers participate in the planning and execution of a project, two important things happen. Concerns of farmers are foremost in the design of the project. And scientists get directly exposed to innovative ideas developed or tried by farmers. These ideas often become an integral part of scientific studies. The result is both better science and a more widespread adoption of more sustainable farming methods that are economically viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally sound, assuring cleaner water and a plentiful supply of safe food for generations to come.

The coordinators of New Mexico projects were asked about participating farmers. Here is what they reported:

- A total of 23 New Mexico farmers have participated in LISA research and education projects;
- 3 are reported to have helped generate ideas for these projects, and 7 help manage the projects;
- 3 farmers have provided land for replicated experiments; another 2 provided land for unreplicated studies.
- 7 are helping with the evaluation of projects.

## **Projects Funded 1988-1990**

Three projects funded by this program that include New Mexico scientists, farmers, or educators in major roles are described here. They received a total of \$47,750, and provided \$48,464 matching funds. In most of the projects, a scientist serves as the Project Coordinator. In others, a farmer or other local area residents are contributing to a multi-state project headquartered in another state.

## **Native Crops Research Project (LW88-4)**

### **Summary**

This project involves traditional, land-based people in the development of low-input technology for economic development. An illustrated report describing various native crops (corn, beans, amaranth, melons, etc.) has been published.

**Project Coordinator** Jose Emigdeo Ballon, Research Director, Talavaya (private non-profit corporation) Santa Cruz, N.M.

**Project Duration** 2 Years

**Total Funding** LISA Funds: \$45,000 Matching Funds: \$43,964

# **Compiling A Database Of Sustainable Producers For The Southern Rockies Region (LW88-5)**

## **Summary**

The Sustainable Mountain Agricultural Alliance (SMAll) is a coalition of research and educational organizations in the Four Corners Region. SMAll supports programs that encourage and develop sustainable agriculture - locally, regionally, and internationally. It is our diversity and regional scope, along with an established history of farmer-initiated research, education, and sustainable practice, which make SMAll particularly well-suited to meet the mandates of the multi-disciplinary approach recommended in the program legislation. Based on a model developed by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization of Montana (AERO), SMAll conducted a survey of "sustainable producers" and their practices in the Southern Rockies region (Colorado, Utah, northern New Mexico, and northern Arizona).

Some 150 farmers and ranchers (28 percent response rate) responded to the survey. The survey compiles information on the relative success of sustainable practices regarding soil fertility, water conservation, soil and moisture management, insect pests and weed control, rangeland management, livestock management, irrigation management, energy conservation, crop storage, diversification, and specialty marketing. In addition, the survey profiles each producer's farm and includes climatic data, size of farm, and crops grown. The data base compiled from the survey responses will be available to those producers surveyed, research and extension staff, and any producer interested in the transition to low-input agriculture. A Resource Directory will be published by the Telluride Institute which will summarize the data and present the information about sustainable producers and their techniques in the Southern Rockies region in a readable, usable format. The Resource Directory will list businesses, organizations, and research and extension personnel working towards the further development of low-input systems. In addition, literature related to sustainable agriculture will be noted. The Directory will be updated regularly.

**Project Coordinator:** Rita Robinson, Telluride Institute

**Project Duration:** 2 Years

**Total Funding:** LISA Funds:\$36,000; Matching Funds:\$23,400

# **Total Resource Budgeting of LISA Farm Enterprises (LW89-15)**

## **Summary**

**E**nterprise budgets serve as a useful planning tool to help producers make resource allocation decisions. Traditional enterprise budgets do not account for all resources and they are not always appropriate to use when decisions include adopting new technology. This project will develop a consistent format and methodology for developing enterprise budgets that allows valid comparisons between alternative enterprises, especially those enterprises using non-traditional practices. A variety of crops, cropping systems and livestock enterprises will be included.

**Project Coordinator:** Paul Patterson, University of Idaho

**Major Participants:** Washington State University: R. W. Carkner; University of California; K. Klonsky; Montana State University: A. E. Baquet, D. Griffith, J. B. Johnson; Colorado State University: B. B. Bainbridge; New Mexico State University: J. D. Libbin; Oregon State University: T. L. Cross; University of Alaska: K. Baker; University of Arizona: J. C. Wade; Utah State University: L. K. Bond; University of Missouri: J. Ikerd

**Project Duration:** 1 Year

**Total Funding:** LISA Funds:\$32,989; MatchingFunds \$59,513

**New Mexico Share:** Zero







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